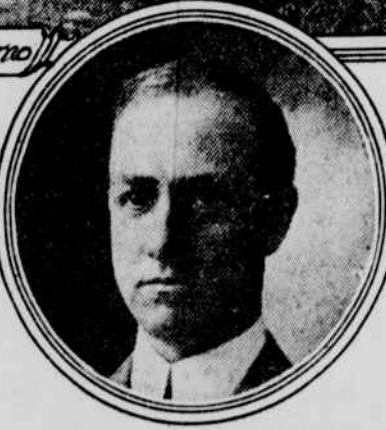


HOPE TO SOLVE EARTH'S FINAL PUZZLE—ICY CROCKER LAND



W. Elmer Ekblaw

Ensign Fitzburgh Green
U. S. N.

Maurice C. Tanquary

Donald B. MacMillan and His Hardy Band Will Be in Wireless Touch with Civilization in Their Search for the Undiscovered Continent Which Theory and Tradition Place North of Alaska and Siberia.

WILL the spirit of adventure ever die? Will there ever be a time when men will fear to go forth to face unknown perils to snatch the laurel of fame?

The answer of the centuries has been "No." In spite of the toll of life and limb, men have gone forth into the unknown places, willing to risk all, that the world may be better because they lived and died.

And as the ages have answered "No," so is the present answering. Brave men still live. Fame calls not in vain. Just as the Norsemen of old, just as Columbus, Vespucci, the Cabots, father and son; Balboa, Magellan, Hudson and scores of others turned their vessels' prows toward the unknown, just so will a little band of hardy Americans leave this city soon to find a new continent.

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY.

Here in these icebound fastnesses, it is believed, lies the undiscovered land, the Atlantis of the twentieth century. Guarded by the eternal cold, it has resisted the efforts of men of might, but hope is bright that in Professor Donald B. MacMillan, leader of the expedition, and the members of his party Nature will meet her match. Those who are pinning their faith to Professor MacMillan believe that when he returns to civilization it will be with the story of a new world, a world of ice maybe, but still a new world. To bring back that story every member of the party is prepared to face death—to die in the effort, if need be.

The reader may be inclined to ask how it is known that such a continent exists if no one has ever been there. The answer to this question is one of the most interesting aspects of the whole subject.

First, it is known that there is some land there, because it has been seen.

Second in importance, though chronologically first, it has been demonstrated, theoretically, by one of Uncle Sam's greatest scientists that there must be land there.

Third, there are Eskimo legends. The known continent was sighted by Admiral (then Commander) Robert E. Peary, discoverer of the North Pole. The time was June 30, 1906. The place was Cape Thomas Hubbard, the northern extremity of Axel Heiberg Land, west of Grant Land. Writing of his discovery, Admiral Peary said:

"The clear day greatly favored my work in making a round of angles, and with the glasses I could make out, apparently a little more distinctly, the snow-clad summits of distant land in the northwest, above the ice horizon."

AGAIN, DR. COOK.

This discovery was made from the top of a great cliff, two thousand feet high. It was at this point that Dr. Frederick A. Cook spent his celebrated Arctic winter, and from which he said he started on his "record breaking" trip to the North Pole. But Cook did not climb the cliff, or, at least, he never mentioned having done so.

Whether Cook really did discover the pole will be settled by this expedition. Cook's records which he left at Cape Thomas Hubbard will be brought back, as will Admiral Peary's. Cook said that on his way north he passed land to the west, in about 84.20 north latitude. He named his land Bradley Land, as a tribute to his benefactor. Cook's "discovery" of Bradley Land was two years

after Peary had reported his finding of the land he had named after one of his patrons, so it is that the Brooklyn physician's enemies have asserted that his finding further north than Crocker Land was only a guess.

The theory that a continent, or at least an archipelago, must exist in that unknown waste is based on the work of Dr. R. A. Harris, tidal expert of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, and first published by him in June, 1904, in "The National Geographic Magazine." In a monograph he goes exhaustively into a study of tides, winds, ice conditions, ocean temperatures, etc. He shows that the movement of the tide and of the currents across the top of the world, from Franz Josef archipelago and Spitzbergen to Bering Strait, is mysteriously retarded, and the only thing that tide will wait for, he argues, is land.

DRIFT OF THE JEANNETTE.

The drift of the Jeannette from a point north of Siberia to another near Bennett Island, between September 6, 1879, and June 12, 1881, and the nearly three-year drift of Nansen, in the Fram, from a point a few hundred miles west of the point where the Jeannette was lost to another north of Spitzbergen, also are cited.

Tradition among the Eskimoes also bears out the deduction. Dr. Simpson, surgeon of the Flover, which went to the Arctic in 1852, reported that the Eskimoes of Point Barrow believed that some of their tribe had been carried to the north on the ice broken up in a southerly gale, arriving, after many nights, at a hilly country inhabited by a people like themselves, speaking the Eskimo language, and by whom they were well received.

After a long stay, one spring, in which the ice remained without movement, they returned without mishap to their own country and reported their adventures. Other Eskimoes have since then been carried away on the ice, and are supposed to have reached the northern land, from whence they have not yet returned. The Smith Sound Eskimoes also point in the direction of Crocker Land and say some of their tribe have disappeared in that direction.

So it is seen that the proposed expedition is not founded on a dream. It was to have been undertaken last summer under the co-leadership of Donald B. MacMillan and George Borup, also of the Peary party, but Borup's untimely death, by accidental drowning near Crescent Beach, Conn., on the afternoon of April 23, 1912, put an end to it at that time. After the latter's death it was decided to continue the work this year as a fitting memorial to the young explorer.

EXTRAORDINARY EQUIPMENT.

Never in the history of Arctic exploration has an expedition started out with such wonderfully complete equipment as will be carried by Professor MacMillan's party. Everything that modern science can devise will be taken along to study the country, its geology, its plant and animal life. A complete meteorological sub-station will be set up in the Arctic, with instruments to measure temperatures of air and water, velocity of winds, barometric pressures, precipitation, etc. There will be a seismograph, to record earth movements, sounding apparatus—everything. These are being supplied to the party by the United States government, to which reports will be made.

This much for the scientific side of the expedition; most important, it is true, but not half so interesting as the human side.

In line with this one gets his first jolt when he hears that the standing of the Giants and Yankees will be known to the expedition until the end of the season and all of next.

Why, by wireless.

One of the most important pieces of machinery to be set up at winter quarters is a powerful wireless outfit. This is also being supplied by the United States government, and is now being built to meet

the special requirements by the General Electric Company in Schenectady.

It will be a station capable of transmitting messages at least 1,500 miles, and of course of receiving them from any distance. The point chosen for winter quarters is at the head of Flagler Bay, in Kane Basin, on the east coast of Grant Land. This is in latitude 78.20 and only 650 miles from the pole.

From this point the 1,500-mile radius will enable the expedition to keep in touch with several stations nearer to civilization. The Hudson Bay Company is erecting this summer a wireless station at Cape Wostenholme, the northern extremity of the Ungava Province of Canada, about latitude 63. At Spitzbergen, Franz Josef archipelago and Spitzbergen, there is another station, nearer, by the way, than the one at Battle Harbor. The Canadian government is constructing a station at Port Nelson, and has voted



The Motorboat "George Borup" in which the party will hunt walrus for the winter food supply for the Eskimo

teered to relay all messages relative to the expedition.

Thus, while in former expeditions the men have gone into the wilderness and have been lost to the world while there, the Crocker Land explorers will know from day to day just what is going on in the world.

"You have no idea what this means to the men," said Professor MacMillan yesterday, when seen at his home in Central Park West. "The great thing is to keep the party amused. A man amused is a man satisfied, and a dissatisfied man, whether he be white or Eskimo, is bad, to say the least, for an expedition."

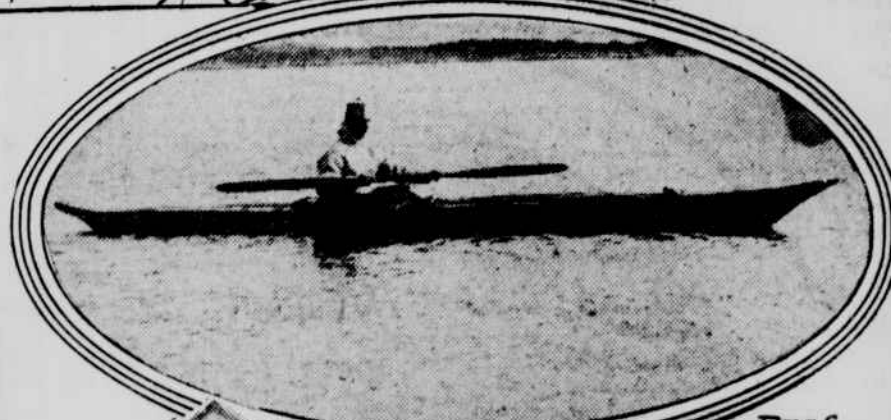
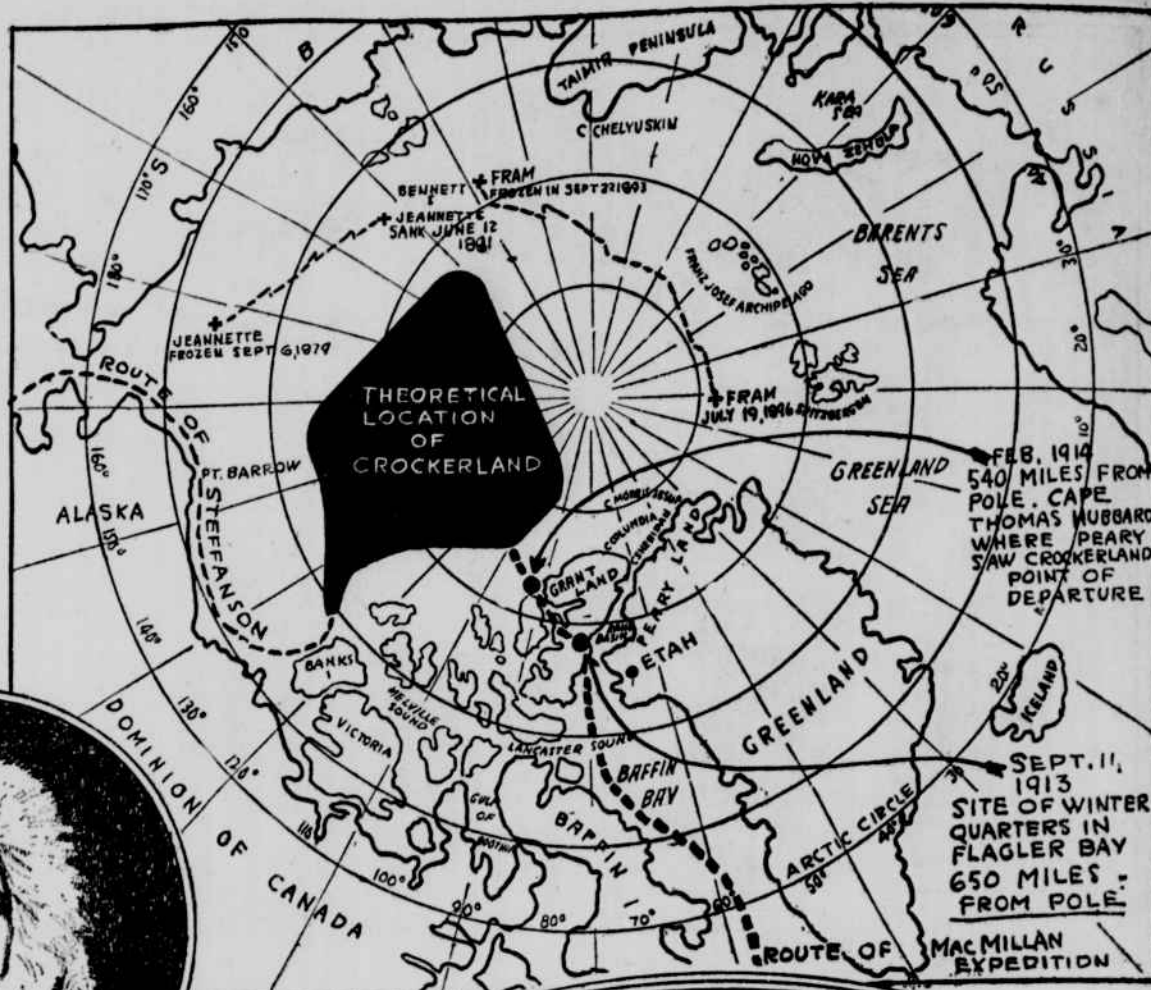
Professor MacMillan speaks the Eskimo language perfectly, and his knowledge of their habits enables him to do much to keep time from hanging heavily on their hands during the long winter night, when the sun is not seen for nearly half the year. It is possible, he says, that he will teach them to play baseball, and he promises some great games under the Arctic moon.

IN TOUCH WITH EXPLORERS.

But it is not only that the wireless will be useful in receiving news from civilization; it will enable the explorers to tell of their accomplishments practically from day to day. Even when the party is away it will keep in touch with winter headquarters by couriers, and the wireless operator will flash the news to the ether, whence it will be picked up and relayed to New York, so that the whole world may know within a few hours of what has been done and of the daily lives of the modern Norsemen. Even the discovery of Crocker Land, though it means a sledging trip of about three hundred miles back to winter quarters, will be known within a few days.

The expedition will leave New York on July 3, stopping at Boston for 14,000 pounds of pemmican and at Sydney for

Prof. Donald B. MacMillan
Leader of
Crockerland Expedition in Winter Arctic Suit



Prof. Donald B. MacMillan in Eskimo Kayak

is invariably good—a fact attested by their symmetrical bodies and perfect health. Admiral Peary tells of having seen only one Eskimo idiot in all his years of association with them."

Smith Sound was recently swept by an epidemic of typhoid, and most of the inhabitants—about 122 men and 96 women—were made ill. It is believed to have been brought to Smith Sound by one of the missionaries from South Greenland. Taking this as a warning, the entire expedition will be vaccinated against typhoid before leaving New York, and the doctor will vaccinate all the Eskimoes upon reaching Smith Sound.

PROFESSOR MACMILLAN.

Professor MacMillan was born at Provincetown, Mass., about thirty-seven years ago. His father and grandfather were old Scotch sailing masters, and from them he inherited his love of adventure. His father was lost at sea more than twenty-five years ago, nothing having ever been heard from his vessel or crew.

Ever since his boyhood he has been reading and understanding books on polar exploration. Dr. MacMillan's dreams have been of joining an expedition to the North Pole. Sixteen years after Commander Peary was graduated from Bowdoin College Dr. MacMillan entered the same institution, there to become a member of the football and track teams, and later a teacher of athletics.

After his graduation from Bowdoin, in 1898, Mr. MacMillan taught as principal in the high school at Gorham, Me., then in the preparatory school at Swarthmore, Penn., and after that, until joining the Peary expedition in 1908, he was physical director in the Worcester (Mass.) Academy.

Dr. MacMillan will be accompanied in his invasion of the frozen North by Professor Maurice C. Tanquary, A. B., A. M., Ph. D., zoologist of the State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kan.; W. Elmer Ekblaw, A. B., A. M., geologist and botanist; Fitzhugh Green, U. S. N., engineer and physicist; Theodore Allen, expert electrician and wireless operator; and Jonathan C. Small, of Provincetown, Mass. The surgeon has not yet been selected.

SPONSORS OF EXPOSITION.

The expedition is under the auspices of the American Museum of Natural History and the American Geographical Society, with the co-operation of the University of Illinois, which has donated \$10,000. The honorary committee includes Henry Fairfield Osborn, Chandler Robbins, Thomas H. Hubbard, Walter B. James and Edmund J. James, while the committee in charge is composed of Edmund Otis Hovey, curator of geology of the American Museum of Natural History; Herbert L. Bridgman, of the Peary Arctic Club, and William S. Bailey.

Many are inclined to ask: "What good can come of it all? Why should men risk their lives to find an ice-clad continent, a land that will never be fit for human habitation?" The answer is that science may benefit, and the ultimate result of benefit to science is benefit to mankind. Dr. President Theodore Roosevelt, in a letter to the American Museum of Natural History relative to the expedition, said:

"The scientific work that is mapped out—in geology, biology, meteorology, oceanography, magnetism, glaciology, etc.—is, of course, of prime importance. If accomplished it will add materially to the sum of human knowledge and should lead to a better understanding of certain conditions which form the daily environment of humanity—to instance only climate."

A thorough study of glaciers, glacial ice caps and glacial motion will be made for the purpose of solving the problem of the process of land moulding under a continuous moving ice cap, a process which is not yet understood. The glacial fringe off the coast of Grant Land offers a particularly interesting field for study.

On the return of the party from Crocker Land, either in 1914 or 1915, one section will be detailed to make explorations to the southwest of Prince Patrick's Land. This section, it is hoped, may connect with the Stefansson expedition, which will then be working, if conditions permit, to the northwest of Prince Patrick's Land.

a thermos bottle, to keep the inner house warm.

This house will be furnished with most of the home comforts of civilization. It will be lighted by electric lights, from a three-kilowatt generator, run by an oil combustion engine, which also will supply power for the wireless. A well-known sewing machine manufacturing company has presented a specially built sewing machine to be used by the Eskimo women in the making of their skin clothes, dog harness, etc., thus saving time and labor.

Each man will have a comfortable mattress with warm skins for bedding. The eating and cooking utensils will be of white enamel, and an amazingly large supply has been bought. Even pepper and salt shakers, and such small luxuries as tea strainers are included.

THE TIN BATHTUB.

A large tin bathtub will be among the supplies. Mr. MacMillan declares nothing else so rejuvenates a man as a good "tub." And don't think they bathe in ice water. No, indeed, the water used is melted ice, warmed to a comfortable degree.

The Eskimoes have at winter quarters will be about the same as the expedition house, except that it will be smaller, 18 by 18 feet, and built with a shelf around the walls about two feet from the ground on which to spread skins for their beds.

"When an Eskimo joins an exploring party he always insists upon taking his wife and children along," said Professor MacMillan. "Women not having become militant as yet in that part of the world, the wives are not in the way. They sew, cook, help build igloos and make themselves generally useful. But man is master always in the Eskimo family, and if his better half displeases him in even so small a matter as the sizes of the stitches she puts in his raiment a beating is likely to be her portion."

But generally they are simple and peaceable, with the minds and faith of children. They are greatly fascinated by fireworks, and Professor MacMillan is taking a great quantity with him to celebrate the Fourth of July and to amuse the "huskies."

WINTER QUARTERS.

After their first return from Crocker Land in 1914 they will carry on scientific work in Grant Land, working back gradually to winter quarters at Flagler Bay and arriving there in July. During the summer of 1915 the expedition will go to Whale Sound (Ingfield Gulf), then directly east to the summit of the Greenland ice cap at the widest part of that continent. They will return to the United States late in the summer of 1915 or early in 1916.

Aside from its scientific equipment, the outfit being prepared is undoubtedly the most complete ever taken into the polar regions. At winter quarters two real houses will be built—one for the white men of the party and the other for the Eskimo dog drivers. The house for the white men, which will be built by the ship's carpenters, will be 32 feet square, a house within a house, as it were, a six-inch space between the inside and outside shells serving, quite after the manner of

SELECTING ESQUIMAU DOGS.

At Smith Sound about one hundred of the strongest Eskimau dogs will be picked to draw the sledges. Eight dogs are usually allowed for each team, eight being equal to one horse in power. The ship will then cross Smith Sound to Flagler Bay, 650 miles from the pole (latitude 79.10, north), passing Cape Sabine, at the southern headland of Flagler Bay. Across the bay from this point they will establish winter quarters in sight of "Starvation Camp," where eighteen of the Greeley expedition perished in the winter of 1883.

When winter quarters have been established the ship will return home, and by the middle of September the party will begin sledging supplies to Cape Thomas Hubbard. This work will take all winter during the moonlight periods.

At dawn, in February, 1914, the party